Rotorua Lakes High School

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 3 – THURSDAY 8 MAY 2025

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

Kia ora tātou,

Term 2 is now fully underway, and being a shorter term of 9 weeks, already seems to be very busy.

Winter sports have started and it's great to see some positive successes being achieved. Thank you to all our coaches and managers for the time you put in to make these sporting opportunities happen for our ākonga.

Some of our senior students have been off on the Wellington Economics and History trip which not only supports their learning but also allows them to build great memories and continuing friendships.

For some of our Year 10, 11 and 12s we have the Common Assessment Activities for Literacy and Numeracy coming up. These assessments are crucial for students to achieve their NCEA qualifications. Our staff have been preparing those students participating, and it is important that students give it their full effort. Once achieved, the doors are opened to gaining all NCEA qualifications.

You will have received an email letting you know that we will be conducting a practice lockdown drill in the near future. This is part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff.

Please be assured that **this is only a drill** and there is no cause for alarm. The purpose of the lockdown drill is to help students and staff become familiar with the procedures that would be followed in the unlikely event of a real emergency. Practicing these drills helps us improve our preparedness and reinforces the importance of staying calm and following directions.

Teachers will speak with students beforehand to explain the purpose of the drill in an age-appropriate and reassuring way. We understand that safety drills can sometimes be unsettling, and we are taking every step to ensure that this experience is handled with care and sensitivity.

As always, please let us know if you have any concerns so that we can continue to develop a positive community focus within our school.

Ngā mihi,

Jon Ward, Principal/Tumuaki

STUDENT INFORMATION

NCEA – LET'S MAKE IT SIMPLE - A REMINDER

We know that NCEA can feel confusing for many students and their whānau, but you're not alone! We want to help you understand how credits, assessments, and qualifications work so you can feel confident on your journey. This video breaks it down in a clear and simple way – check it out with your whānau!

click & watch below

How NCEA works video, English - NZQA

ASSESSMENTS

Corequisite CAA Exams will be held in Week 4 and 5 this term. Students who are sitting these will need to have logged into their NZQA accounts beforehand to check access. This will be done in class, but can also be checked from home. Please encourage students who are entered to revise and study at home over the coming weeks.

The following assessments have been set down. There may be times where, due to unforeseen circumstances, changes will need to occur. This will be done in consultation with the class(es) concerned.

Level	Subject	Standard	Date
L2	English- Analyse Aspects of Visual Text by Close Viewing - 3 credits	**AS91107**	15/05/2025
L3	Chemistry - internal - 3 credits	**AS91393**	12/05/2025
L1	Legal Studies- internal - 4 credits	**US27847**	TBA

ATTENDANCE- *continuing focus on student attendance....*

School leadership, boards, parents and the Ministry of Education all play key roles in supporting students to attend school – and addressing absence when it occurs. Lifting school attendance is our shared responsibility. The STAR (Stepped Attendance Response) has been developed in line with the good practice identified in Education Review Office (ERO) evaluations and school indicators.

We know that school leadership, board stewardship, quality teaching, and educationally powerful connections will influence positive school attendance.

The STAR:

- sets the direction so that no student will be left to accumulate absences without an appropriate response to return them to regular attendance
- will help us achieve the Government's target of 80% of students present for 90% of the term by 2030
- tells us what should happen when students do not attend school

It sets clear expectations that school attendance is a priority, and that:

- parents will work with the school, the Ministry and other agencies where required, to return children to regular attendance and participate in the supports
- schools and the Ministry of Education will take action when student absence is a concern.

If you have any pātai around attendance, please contact Glenda Curtis – Assistant Principal curtisg@rotorualakes.school.nz

TERM 2 KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES

AN UPDATED LOOK AT KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES COMING UP DURING TERM 2 2025	
WEEK 3	
12-14 May	Y12 AOE Multi Day Tramp
13 May	Manihera Golf Tournament
13 May	RLHS Board Meeting
13 May	Y13 Tourism Trip
14 May	Performance Assembly
14 May	Tourism, Hospitality + Retail Event
14 May	Jnr Badminton Qual
15 May	11SPS BMX Class Trip
16 May	NECA Summary Report
16 May	REAL Pink Shirt Day
WEEK 4	
19-30 May	CAA Lit/Num Testing
21 May	Student Led Assembly
23 May	Rockquest Heats
WEEK 5	
26+27 May	Working @ Heights Course
28 May	House Assembly
29 May	Showquest + Toi
30 May	NCEA Summary Report
WEEK 6	
2 June	**King's Birthday (school closed)**
3 June	JNR EPRO8 Heats
4 June	SNR EDROB Heats
4 June	Principals Assembly
4 June	WBOP Cross Country
5 June	11SPS BMX Class Trip
WEEK 7	
10 June	Rotorua Interschools Chess
10 June	RLHS Board Meeting
11 June	BOPSS Squash Champs
11 June	RYDA Y11 Workshop
13 June	JNR/SNR Reports Issued
13 June	BOPSS Rock Climbing Champs
WEEK 8	
16 June	CBOP Snr Badminton Qual
17 June	BOPSS Squash Girls
17 +18 June	Barista Course
17+18 June	Parent Interviews
18 June	Performance Assembly
19 June	Kapahaka Regionals
20 June	**Matariki (school closed)**
WEEK 9	
24+25 June	EPIC
25 June	Excellence Assembly
26 June	11SPS BMX Class Trip
26 June	Y8 Future Leaders Day
27 June	**Staff Only Day and Last Day of Term 2**

FROM THE OFFICE TEAM - LOST PROPERTY

Parents and Caregivers - please come and check lost property regularly for any uniform or non-uniform items your child may have lost during the term.
At the end of each term, we recycle all lost property items not claimed.

FROM OUR HAUORA/WELLNESS TEAM

Just a little reminder to students that if they feel unwell please stay at home; and to caregivers, if your child feels unwell please do not send them to school, and please remember to contact the school as early as possible if your child is away sick. Thank you.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

ANZAC DAY 2025

ANZAC Day is a time for reflection - a day to honour the bravery, sacrifice, and service of twho came before us. It reminds us of the values we strive to live by as a kura: manaakitanga, showing care and respect; whanaungatanga, strengthening our connections; wairuatanga, honouring the spirit of those who served; and whakapapa, knowing who we are and where we belong.

21 Prefects and Mrs Goodrick attended the Dawn Service on Anzac Day. As the sun rose on a cold but calm morning, students listened to the guest speaker discuss the Maori Battalion and some key soldiers who were recognised for their service. After the last post, Hannah Keirnan and Lachie Hoggard laid a wreath from the school in honour of those who have sacrificed for us. After this we walked in the civic parade alongside the other schools of Rotorua.

RLHS Student Leader in the Cook Islands!

Over the holidays, Kate Staunton (Year 12) represented Rotorua Lakes High School in the Cook Islands as part of Future Leaders - Academy programme.

Split into syndicates with local, NZ and Aussie students, Kate's group named themselves Mana Toa – strong, uplifting warriors – and they lived up to that name every day.

From cooking an umu and hiking to "The Needle", to building rafts with coconuts and doing volunteer work to support local youth and protect the land, Kate took every opportunity to step up, lead, and grow.

Applied Outdoor Education Hikoi - Pukepoto to Ōkāreka

Just before the holidays, our amazing Year 11 & 13 Applied Outdoor Education (AOE) classes headed out on an overnight tramp to deepen their connection with significant tāonga in our rohe.

Led by Matua Tim Hounsell (Yr13) and Whaea Sophie Hoskins (Yr11), the group started near Rotokawa School and trekked toward Pukepoto on Whakapoungākau.

Throughout the journey, tauira shared researched kōrero about the whenua and significant landmarks, developing their sense of connection and guardianship of this beautiful place.

PERFORMING ARTS

Celebrating Student Success – 🎼🎶🎵 *The Sound of Music* 🎼🎶🎵

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of three outstanding students—Jessica Martin, Declan Lesheid, and Elena Burns—who recently starred in Rotorua Musical Theatre's sold-out production of *The Sound of Music*.

This iconic musical was brought to life by a talented cast, and our students shone brightly on stage. Jessica impressed with her vocal strength and poise, Declan brought energy and confidence to every scene, and Elena captivated audiences with her expressive performance.

Being part of a full-scale, community theatre production is a major accomplishment, and we commend these students for their dedication, professionalism, and talent. Ka rawe!

SPORTS

RLHS Boys' Cricket XI – Season Wrap-Up 🏏

What a summer for our Boys' Cricket team!

This talented and committed group grew from 8-12 players this season - and despite being a young side, they smashed it in Term 1 with 6 wins from 8 games! The future of cricket at Lakes is looking bright.

Highlights from the season:

Owen McGrath's 112 & 77 vs RBHS Academy sides Archie Thomson's brilliant 95 against Taupō

Incredible growth across the team

End-of-season trip to Bay Oval Cricket Ground for the Black Caps vs Pakistan Cricket Team!

2024/25 Squad: Joshua Ford | Lincoln Hopgood | Emmett Gouws | Gurparteek Singh | Arlo Garden| Owen McGrath | Archie Thomson | Alfie Cochrane | Finn Griffiths| Ryan Lei|Jamie Bennett

Boys' Football off to a positive start! JPC 1st XI 4 - 7 RLHS 1st XI

The season started with an away game at JPC in damp conditions. Shai Dyson scored 2, Sam MacFarlane 2, Owen McGrath and Oliver Jones also on the score sheet.

Great to see some juniors stepping up and performing well.

Huge Congratulations to Our Basketball Reps! 🏀

Over the Easter break, some of our talented RLHS basketballers represented Rotorua at the Mel Young Easter Basketball Tournament, showcasing incredible skill, grit, and sportsmanship! 💪🔥

Special shoutout to:

Seth Larsen (U18 Rotorua Boys), Taj Sydney (U18 Rotorua Boys), Ellie Porter (U18 Rotorua Girls), Punima Pahwa (U18 Rotorua Girls)

Both teams placed 4th overall - an awesome achievement! We're now backing them as they head into Regional Qualifiers, with Nationals on the horizon.

RLHS Orienteering Success - Oscar Burns 👏👏🎉🏆

Over the school holidays, our talented Year 12 student Oscar Burns took on two major orienteering competitions - and absolutely smashed it!

At the NZ Orienteering Champs in Christchurch, Oscar placed an outstanding 2nd in the Men's Junior Elite (Under 20) long-distance race, battling through a tough and hilly course at Mt Cass that tested both physical and mental endurance.

Then, at the North Island Secondary School Orienteering Champs in Auckland, Oscar dominated the Senior Boys' Individual events - winning both the Sprint and the Long races - and was also the first runner back in the composite relay team. Way to go Oscar!!

🏑 RLHS 1st XI BOYS HOCKEY - TAUPO 🏑

Our 1st XI Boys showed great determination and teamwork in their first match of the season, finishing with an impressive 4–4 draw against Tauhara College.

With four players unavailable, Ayden Atkinson and Connor Carter stepped up and delivered solid performances.

RLHS Riders Dominate at North Island MTB Champs! 🚵

Our Rotorua Lakes High School riders showed true grit and skill at the North Island School MTB Championships over the holidays!

Nicole Wallace smashed it with 🥇 1st in U17 Cross-Country and 🥈 2nd in U17 Enduro, while her brother Matthew Wallace dominated the U15s with 🥉 3rd in XC, 🥇 1st in Enduro, and 🥈 2nd in Downhill!

More top 10 results from our awesome crew:

Poppy Croucher – DH & Enduro (U20) ,Jovarne Jury – DH & Enduro (U17) ,Noah Croucher – DH & Enduro (U16), Colton Boardman – DH (U16)

Awesome event everyone!

RLHS COMMUNITY NOTICES

SCHOOLDOCS

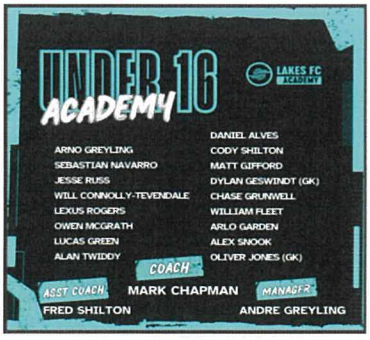
Rotorua Lakes High works with SchoolDocs to provide a website for maintaining, updating and reviewing our school policies. SchoolDocs updates policies in response to changes in legislation and Ministry guidelines, reviews/requests from schools, and regular research from the SchoolDocs team.

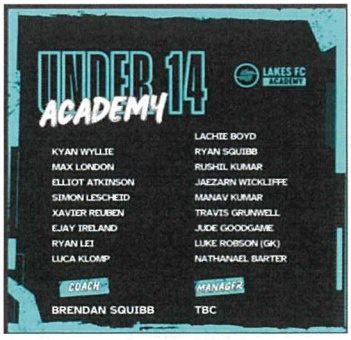
Our school Board has the opportunity to view changes/additions, and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

We invite you to visit the site at:
https://rotorualakes.schooldocs.co.nz
Username: **rotorualakes**
Password: **community**

Congratulations to our Rotorua Students who made it into the Lakes FC Federation teams to represent Rotorua in Football:

Arlo Garden
Oliver Jones
Chase Grunwell
Owen McGrath
Simon Lescheid
Ryan Lei
Luke Robson
Travis Grunwell





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